55-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

ALABAMA

Left Gift In Will

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—MRS. GLADYS DAVENPORT—of 612 N[illegible]nd Street, Avondale, who was left $500 cash and $300 in [illegible] by Miss Evelyn S. Schade, an unmarried white woman, of 508 30th Street, So. W. West End.

Mrs. Davenport, member of the Harmont Street Baptist Church has lived in Avondale over 2[illegible] years, and for ten years worked for Mrs. Schade, a social worker and friend of humanity, God's people.

One day in December, 1930 Whitfield Davenport, husband of the maid-heir, was selling from his fruit wagon to Mrs. Schade when she asked him about getting somebody to work for her. He told her that he would send her someone. That night at home he told his wife about the job. She went herself to it.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

White Lady Remembers Maid In Death

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—Ties of Christian friendship spoke out in the will of a middle-aged white widow who bequeathed to her maid-friend money and valuables of nearly $800.

Without any relatives of her own, according to a related story Mrs. Evelyn Schade, age 39 of 508 30th St. West End, left her estate and holdings to her four best friends, three white persons and one Negro.

Nice-looking, pear-skinned church-going Mrs. Gladys Davenport, age 31, of 612 42nd St., No. Avondale, servant-friend of Mrs Schade, was left $500 and personals valued at $300 in the will of the friend-rewarding white widow.

CALIFORNIA

55-1942

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Rochester Angles for New "Nest"

HOLLYWOOD—(ANP) — Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, who has had a friend of his shopping for a big ranch for him, is pretty close to closing for the beautiful one now occupied by Francis Lederer, famous movie star.

It is a vast, well wooded estate out in San Fernando Valley, where many other stars, including Bob Burns, have fine ranches. It is not a "dude" ranch but, already stocked with cattle and horses, is capable of producing many farm products.

The big main house is not yet completed, and Lederer is at present living in one built for the head keeper. He spent $150,000 for it when he remarried less than a year ago, but like many other movie stars they soon tired of it.

Rochester is reported to be willing to pay $80,000 for the place as is, and it is expected that the deal will soon be made.—H.L.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

White Group Loses Fight For Estate

LOS ANGELES—A share of the $700,000 estate left by his mother, Abigail Stark, daughter of a former slave and San Joaquin valley rancher, was again denied Everett Hutton Jr., 41 year old prison inmate, now serving a 99 year sentence.

MAY 2 - 1942

The trial represented one of many petitions during the past three years. Some of them brought by traditionally proud Nordics who sought to share in the estate of a woman who was conceded to be a Negro.

In the bulky court file that accumulated during the lengthy litigation, it was disclosed that other children of the spinster's father and his white wife sought a share of the estate.

During that legal battle, however, the State supreme court ruled that children born of white-Negro parentage are illegitimate, and that consequently there was no relationship between Miss Stark's white half brothers and sister and herself.

COURT BARS WHITE HEIRS

MAY 9 1942

PITTSBURGH COURIER

LOS ANGELES, May 7—(ANP) —A share of a $700,000 estate left by his mother, Abigail Stark, daughter of a former slave and San Joaquin Valley rancher, was again denied Everett Hutton, Jr., 41 year old prison inmate, now serving a 99 year sentence. The trial represented one of many petitions during the past three years. Some of them brought by traditionally proud Nordics who sought to share in the estate of a woman who was conceded to be a Negro.

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55-1942

D.C.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

D. C. Woman Leaves Estate Of $78,506

FEB 21 1942

Only Debts Owed For Last Illness And Her Funeral

FEB 21 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—An estate totaling $78,506 was left by Mrs. Minnie B. Smoot, who died on January 12, according to the petition for probate of her will, filed in the District Court last Thursday. Mrs. Smoot was a retired school teacher, who became a funeral director.

Mrs. Smoot's estate consists of real estate with an assessed valuation for purposes of taxation of $64,571, and of personal property totaling $13,935.92.

FEB 21 1942

Of her personal property the sum of $9,505 represents cash in several banks.

Mrs. Smoot's heirs are her husband, William E. Smoot; four nieces, Erma M. Robinson and Marea N. Mulligan, of Washington; Marian Inez Thomas, of Forestville, Md., and Minnie B. Rogers of New York City, and a nephew, Phillip Mulligan, Jr. ..

The only debts of the estate are a bill of $282 on account of Mrs. Smoot's last illness and a funeral bill of $1,008.

Mrs. Gertrude Erma Robinson, 2405 Nichols Avenue, S. E., a niece, was named executrix of the estate by Mrs. Smoot in her will dated January 7.

FEB 21 1942

Emory B. Smith, an attorney, is representing the estate.

55-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

MISSOURI

Heir To 'Biscuit' Fortune

APR 17 1942

Daughter of Mrs Annie Fisher Is Victim of Fraud

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —Mrs. Lucille Merritt, daughter of Mrs. Annie Fisher, the famous "beaten biscuit" maker, has been duped of $5,000 by three confidence men from Chicago.

Charges have been filed against the three men, named as Victor Williams, alias W. J. Adams, James Claiborn and Bob Owens.

Mrs. Merritt's mother conducted a widely known eating house a short distance from Columbia. University of Missouri students often frequented the place. Mrs. Fisher died several years ago.

According to the story told by Mrs. Merritt, she was notified that a brother of her mother had died in Chicago and had left her his entire estate. She was asked to meet three men at a Jefferson City bank to sign certain papers necessary to lay claim to the estate.

FIND PACKAGE WORTH $10,000

The men met her as arranged, the papers were signed and she was about to leave when a man who seemed to be a bank messenger approached the group and told them that a package was waiting for them at the post office.

At the post office they saw a man throw a package from a moving car just as the "messenger" started to cross the street. He picked it up. One of the men with Mrs. Merritt approached him and all examined the package. The "messenger" insisted that since the package contained money he must take it to his boss, the "banker."

Here the story really becomes fantastic. The package was found to have contained $10,000. The "banker" was willing to permit the finders to keep $9,000 of it and divide it any way they pleased but one of them must deposit $5,000 to "indemnify" him. Could Mrs. Merritt lay her hands on that much cash for a matter of only a day or two? Hesitatingly, she says, she consented.

APR 17 1942

She went to Columbia and got the money. She said she had drawn it from the bank in December and kept it at her home. She brought it here and gave it to them. That was March 18.

When she did not hear from the three again she wrote to a friend in Chicago who sent a detective here. He told the authorities that the three men were known confidence men and that the trail was hot. He asked for the filing of the complaint.

SHE BECOMES SUSPICIOUS

The whole plan was well staged and the men walked in and out of the lobby of the bank as though they were acquainted. She recalled, however, that aside from the messenger no bank official ever approached them.

Mrs. Fisher conducted a chicken dinner restaurant near the Chicago world's fair for several months and gained a reputation as a woman of means. Local authorities say that the confidence men noted all that and filed it away for future reference. When Mrs. Fisher died the opportunity presented itself.

55-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Estate Of $100,000 Left By Scavenger

FEB 22 1942

QOQUE, L. I.—(A N P)—Last August, Cornelius W. (Ken) Smith, 74-year-old handyman and cesspool cleaner, died. His funeral was preached by a white minister and a white undertaker handled the burial. Last week, however, numerous friends and relatives of the deceased man were surprised when Surrogate Richard W. Hawkins at near by Riverhead, reported that the one-time cesspool cleaner left an estate of at least $110,000 when he died August 22.

Local residents were not surprised by the size of Smith's estate because he had always declared, 'My greatest joy is saving money, and if you don't spend it you'll always have it." These folk had estimated his wealth at $10,000, but a check of records revealed that he had that amount in more than a half a dozen banks. The entire estate was willed to the widow, except for $1,000 bequeated to his sister, Mrs. Eddraner S. Pate, who lives in Harlem.

Mrs. Smith, however, refuses to discuss her fortune, but at her nine room house on Old Main road she stated, "I'm going away, probably to Washington, and I'd rather not talk about it." Washington is the widow's home. She met her late husband, a native of Long Island, there in 1914, when she was 30 and he was 54. She became popular as waitress of one Quoque's leading white hotels, while he was just the handyman. Nevertheless, to please her eccentric husband, although she also liked to save money, they worked hard, continued to save, and as a result she is $100,000 in cash better of.

According to the deceased's friends, only twice in his life did he leave his native home. His biggest enjoyment was the annual Suffolk County fair held at Riverhead, but even then he did not bother about money, being only interested in the livestock exhibition.

FEB 22 1942

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

HANDY MAN LEAVES $103,164 ESTATE

FEB 13 1942

RIVERHEAD, N. Y., Feb. 7.—Cornelius W. Smith, Negro, died last August at 74. Residents for whom he had worked 40 years as a handyman—mowing lawns fixing faucets, tending gardens and furnaces— felt he probably left his widow just about enough money to live comfortably. In Surrogate court this week his estate was valued at $103,164.

FEB 13

Cleveland Guide
Cleveland, Ohio

JACK BLACKBURN LEFT $6000.00

by KEN JESSAMY

NEW YORK.— (C)— According to his will, filed for probate, Jack Blackburn, late trainer of heavyweight champion Joe Louis, who died in April of a heart attack, left an estate of only $6,000 it was revealed this week in Chicago. Blackburn, who pointed Louis toward the heavy throne was said to receive 10% of Louis' purses for services rendered.

NEW YORK

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Cesspool Cleaner Has Estate Of $100.000

FEB 28 1942

QUOQUE, L. I., (ANP)—When Cornelius W. (Ken) Smith, 74-year-old handyman and cesspool cleaner, died last August no one thought much about it. Last week friends and relatives of the deceased man were surprised when Surrogate Richard W Hawkins at nearby Riverhead, reported that the one-time cesspool cleaner left an estate of at least $110,000.

Saving Money Is Joy

Local residents were not surprised by the size of Smith's estate because he had always declared, "My greatest joy is saving money, and if you don't spend it, you'll always have it." These folk had estimated his wealth at $10,000, but a check of records revealed that he had that amount in more than half a dozen banks. The entire estate was willed to the widow, except for $1,000 bequeathed to his sister, Mrs. Eddranor S. Pate, who lives in Harlem.

Mrs. Smith, however, refuses to discuss her fortune, but at her nine-room house on Old Main road she stated "I'm going away, probably to Washington, and I'd rather not talk about it." Washington is the widow's home.

FEB 28 1942

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55-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Another Suit Over Oil Land

New Claimant Wants to Share In $7,500,000

CHICAGO. — (ANP) — The number of claimants for the $7,500,000 estate of the late Lete Kelvin Stevens, full-blooded Creek Indian woman, continued to mount when another Chicagoan filed suit in Tulsa, Okla., last Thursday to obtain the fortune.

The new claimant is Columbus Bell Stevens who says he is the son of the deceased Indian woman. He said he was born in 1903 as a result of the union of Joe Stevens and the Kelvin woman.

Attys. Henry C. Ferguson and William L. Dawson, counsel for Stevens, support their client's claim with facts they say were uncovered during a ten month investigation of the case.

Stevens, a packing house worker, is the second Chicagoan to lay claim to the estate. William Knighten, the other man, retained Atty. George Adams to press his suit, contending he is the legal husband of the dead woman. Knighten is a roofing contractor.

Knighten said the Indian died a violent death at the hands of an irate suitor in 1916 in Tulsa. Stevens disputes this, however, maintaining that Lete Kelvin died from pneumonia in 1931. His father whom he claims was Joe Stevens, died a year later.

Besides these two Chicagoans, four corporations and 52 individuals have jammed court dockets with petitions asserting the estate rightfully belongs to them. The corporations are: Sinclair, Prairie Oil, of Maine; Minnehoma Oil and Gas, of Arizona; Atlanta Refining of Pennsylvania; and the Reserve Development company of Delaware.

Stevens' attorneys named the four corporations and the 52 individuals in the suit seeking recovery of the fortune.

The money which is now tied up in litigation might be taken to the United States Supreme court on appeal of the four oil companies which are protesting a state district judge's decision that awarded the estate to a Claremore, Okla., widow and two Kansas City, Mo., packinghouse workers.

55-1942

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Uptown Woman Left $20,000 By Her Employer

MAY 23 1942

A bequest of $20,000 was left Mrs. Harriet E. Carrington, housekeeper for the late Gustav Quinn, in "grateful appreciation for her loyal service, care and attention given by her to my wife, during the latter's life time and to myself, covering a period of more than 14 years."

The will of the dead man was probated Friday. At the time Mrs. Carrington is confined to her bedroom from a broken leg suffered several weeks ago.

Suffers Broken Leg

Quinn died February 25. He lived at 926 Mt. Vernon street, where Mrs. Carrington is still making her residence. The bequest was equally divided between personal and real property.

MAY 23 1942

Mrs. Carrington expressed herself as much surprised at the bequest. She has made no plans for the future because of her confinement. Her employer was a retired business man. His wife died in 1936.

Mrs. Carrington is a Philadelphian and a member of King Solomon Baptist Church, 1008 Cumberland street. The estate is being administered by Dr. Albert P. Seltzer, 1332 N. Franklin street.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Jury Gives $25,000 Fortune Of Servant To Rightful Heirs

NOV. 21, 1942

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — A jury of ten women and two men in Common Pleas Court here last week found that the alleged will of Mary Agnes Lewis, 85-year old Philadelphia woman, who died leaving $25,000 in cash, had been fraudently made and assigned the wealth to her rightful heirs.

Mrs. Lewis died March 8, 1939, at 41st and Haverford avenue, leaving this small fortune in two old bank accounts.

It was money she had amassed through constant and systematic savings while working as a servant for 45 years in the wealthy Scott-Powell milk family.

Trial of the suit lasted for three and a half days. Many of the family came from the old family home at Culpeper and Arrington, Va.

Some from as far west as Chicago, to testify that they all sprang from the common ancestor, aged Mack David Alexander of Arrington and Culpeper, Va.

TAKE THE STAND

His sons, Harry Alexander, and Hayes Alexander, and daughters, Laura Lane of Philadelphia, Euralie Alexander Carlo of Chicago; nephew Van Trump Thomas of Egg Harbor, N. J., and many others took the witness stand to show they were the rightful claimants to share the $25,000 cash that their elder sister, Mary Agnes Lewis, died and left in two old bank accounts on the Philadelphia Savings Banks.

NEGRO ATTORNEY

The heirs were represented by Attorneys Raymond Pace Alexander and Sadie T. M. Alexander, who had to overcome a claim from those who claimed under an alleged will, which the heirs claim was fraudulently made, that Mary Agnes Lewis left no lawful blood heirs, and therefore, no one to claim her estate.

The Orphan's Court of Philadelphia sent the case to the Common Pleas Court to be tried by a jury Thursday at 5 p. m.

The jury brought back a verdict asserting that Laura Lane and her brothers and sisters, all lineal descendants of Mack David Alexander, and brothers and sisters of Mary Agnes Lewis, are the rightful heirs of the decedent.

RICHMOND LAWYER

A feature of the trial was the testimony of a well known lawyer of Richmond, Va., Oliver W. Hill, who was brought here by Attorney Raymond Pace Alexander, to show the court and jury the result of the two years tracing of the Alexander family tree in Culpeper and Arrington, Va., in which he proved the ancestry of Mary Agnes Lewis and her undoubted relationship to the sisters and brothers, which convinced the jury of their rightful claims as heirs to this estate.